

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2361

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLASS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 5133

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S STATEMENT UPON DEPARTURE
FOR NEW YORK

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE SABC NEWS AND THE CITIZEN AUGUST 31
ACCOUNTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE
ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30:

2. BEGIN SABC TEXT:

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. PIK BOTHA,
SAYS THAT THE BESTOWMENT OF INDEPENDENCE FOR SOUTH WEST
AFRICA, AS ADVOCATE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED
NATIONS DR. WALDHEIM, COULD BE A SERIOUS STUMBLING BLOCK
FOR SOUTH AFRICA AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE IN NEW
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YORK. MR. BOTHA WAS SPEAKING AT THE JAN SMUTS AIRPORT
BEFORE LEAVING FOR NEW YORK. HE SAID THE INDEPENDENCE
DATE HAD BEEN SET TWO YEARS AGO AND HE SAW NO REASON
WHY IT HAD TO BE CHANGED. MR. BOTHA SAID THE
INDEPENDENCE DATE OF DECEMBER 31 WAS NOT AN ARBITRARY
ONE, MERELY BECAUSE SWAPO WAS DRAGGING ITS FEET BECAUSE
THE DATE DID NOT SUIT SWAPO AND BECAUSE OF SWAPO'S PLANS FOR

AGGRESSION, THE INDEPENDENCE DATE HAD TO BE POSTPONED FOREEVER. THIS, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT STAND FOR. HE SAID HE BELIEVED IT WAS DESIRABLE THAT LECTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE HELD THIS YEAR. THE PEOPLE OF SWA HAD ALRADY SHOWN THROUGH THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS THAT THEY WERE IN FAVOR OF AN EARLY ELECTION. MR. BOTHA SAID HE DID NOT WANT A SITUATION DEVELOPING LIKE THE ONE WHICH NOW EXISTED IN RHODESIA. REFERRING TO THE UN PROPOSALS ON THE TASK FORCE AND OTHER PERSONNEL IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA, HE SAID THIS WAS A VERY DELICATE MATTER. ASKED WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA HAD PROPOSALS OF HER OWN REGARDING THE SIZE OF THE TASK FORCE, HE SAID SOUTH AFRICA HAD A CERTAIN FIGURE IN MIND, AND IT WAS CONSIDERABLY SMALLER THAN THE 7,500 PROPOSED BY DR. WALDHEIM. END SABC TEXT.

3. BEGIN EXCERPT FROM THE CITIZEN:

MR. BOTHA SAID HIS PRIME TASK IN NEW YORK WOULD BE TO PUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN STANDPOINT ON THE PROPOSALS AND TO SEEK FURTHER CLARITY ON THE ISSUES WHICH WERE DISTURBING.

"I HAVE DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. I DON'T KNOW WHAT MORE I CAN AGREE TO OR WHAT MORE ANY AMERICAN CAN ASK MY GOVERNMENT TO DO.

"WE HAVE AGREED TO EVERYTHING THAT EVERY AMERICAN
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CAN SUPPORT IN TERMS OF AMERICAN PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, OPENNESS AND FAIRNESS.

"IF THIS IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH, THEN I HAVE A CLEAR CONSCIENCE--IRRESPECTIVE OF THE ALTERNATIVES."

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BUT MR. BOTHA INDICATED THAT IF THE OBSTACLES
WERE TO PROVE INSURMOUNTABLE, IT WAS TOO SOON TO SAY
WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA WOULD PULL OUT OF THE WETSERN PLAN.
"THAT IS FOR MY GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE."

MR. BOTHA SAID THE POSITION REGARDING THE ELECTION
DATE WAS STILL NOT CLEAR IN THE PROPOSALS AND THIS WAS ONE OF
THE POINTS ON WHICH HE WOULD ALSO BE SEEKING
CLARITY.

"THE POSITION IS THAT THERE MUST BE AN ELECTION
THIS YEAR IN SUCH A WAY THAT A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IS
ELECTED IN TIME TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF WHETHER IT WANTS
TO RETAIN THAT DATE (DECEMBER 31) OR NOT.

"IF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DECIDED IT WANTS
TO POSTPONE THE DATE I THINK MY GOVERNMENT WOULD
SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDER SUCH A REQUEST."
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BUT THE ELECTION HAD TO TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR
BECAUSE "WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO THAT DATE AND
THE SECURITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED IT. WE MUST BRING
SOUTH WEST AFRICA TO INDEPENDENCE."

MR. BOTHA ADDED: "I DON'T WANT A SECOND RHODESIAN
SITUATION DEVELOPING THERE. WE MUST GET ON WITH THE
JOB.

"THIS IS NOT AN ARBITRARY DATE. IT'S BEEN KNOWN
FOR TWO YEARS. IT'S LIKE TELLING A MAN APPROACHING HIS
21ST BIRTHDAY HE MUST WAIT ANOTHER SEVEN MONTHS.

"SIMPLY BECAUSE SWAPO ARE DRAGGING THEIR FEET
DOES NOT MEAN THE DATE MUST BE POSTPONED FOREVER SO THAT
THEY CAN CARRY ON WITH THEIR TASK OF TRYING TO TAKE
OVER POWER IN THE COUNTRY THROUGH THE BARREL OF A GUN.

"WE ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE IT THAT WAY," SAID
MR. BOTHA.

"IF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IS ELECTED, THAT'S ALL I

WANT. AT THE MOMENT THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO
SHOW AND TO PROVE TO THE PEOPLE THAT ALL OF US --
THE UNITED NATIONS, THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS, THE AFRICAN
STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA -- ARE SINCERE IN MOVING THE
TERRITORY TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE. AN ESSENTIAL STEP IS TO
ELECT A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHICH MUST DRAFT A
CONSTITUTION.

" WE MUST GET THIS DONE NOW. WE CAN'T WAIT LONGER.
IN YOU WAIT LONGER YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE MORE VIOLENCE,
GREATER STRIFE AND WARFARE AND AN INCREASE IN UNCERTAINTY.
THE ECONOMY WILL BE HARMED AND YOU WILL MOVE INTO A
GENERALLY DESTABILIZED SITUATION."

MR. BOTHA SAID THERE WAS AMPLE TIME TO DETERMINE
THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE IN A DEMOCRATIC MANNER. EIGHTY
PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE HAD ALREADY REGISTERED FOR THE
ELECTIONS KNOWING THAT DECEMBER 31 WAS THE TARGET DATE.
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"THEY REGISTERED WITH A VIEW TO PARTICIPATING IN
ELECTIONS SOON. THEY WANT THEIR INDEPENDENCE."

BUT THERE WAS STILL NO CLARITY ON WHAT THE
PROPOSALS HAD TO SAY REGARDING THE REGISTRATION.

"THE REGISTRATION HAS BEEN HELD OPENLY, THE FIVE
WESTERN POWERS WERE INFORMED WHEN IT BEGAN. IT WENT
WONDERFULLY WELL. I CANNOT SEE THAT SUCH AN IMPORTANT
TASK CAN BE STARTED OVER AGAIN."

ON THE QUESTION OF TROOP REDUCTIONS, MR. BOTHA
SAID IT WAS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROPOSALS THAT
BEFORE SOUTH AFRICA WOULD WITHDRAW THERE MUST BE
"A COMPLETE GENERAL CESSATION OF ALL VIOLENCE AND
HOSTILITIES."

EMPHASIZING THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD DONE EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, MR. BOTHA SAID:
"WE AGREED THAT DISCRIMINATION WOULD BE ELIMINATED, TO
ONE-MAN-ONE- VOTE ELECTIONS, TO ELECT A CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY, TO INDEPENDENCE FOR THE TERRITORY AS A
WHOLE AT AN EARLY DATE.

"THIS IS THE ONE THING THE UN INSISTED ON
THROUGHOUT ALL THESE YEARS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THEY
WANTED TO HAND OVERPOWER IMMEDIATELY. WE AGREED ON A
MECHANISM FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.
WE AGREED ON A UNITED NATIONS PRESENCE TO SATISFY ALL
THAT THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE FAIR, OPEN AND WITHOUT
INTIMIDATION. I DON'T KNOW WHAT MORE I CAN AGREE TO."
EN "CITIZEN" TEXT.
EDMONDSON

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